

FROM THE BOARD

Highlights of the Horizon Board of Education Monthly Meetings

April, 2020

A message from Jim Hack, Horizon School Division Board of Education Chair:

After careful planning and preparation, Horizon School Division began offering Supplemental Learning to students on April 20. As a Board, we are so proud of how our school division has come together to make this happen. Each staff member in our system has played such a crucial role in this work. And none of it would be possible without the engagement and support of our outstanding students and families.

Thank you to all Horizon staff, students, families, and communities for making the best of this situation — a situation we have no control over. I salute you!

- Jim Hack, Board Chair

April 2020 Regular Meeting

A regular monthly meeting of the Board took place via video and teleconference on Wednesday, April 22. Jim Hack (Chair), Linda Mattock (Vice-Chair), David Holinaty, Jennifer Lemky, Mark Fedak, Lori-Anne Proznick, Christine Gradin, Wil Lengyel, Cheryl Vertefeulle, Nathan Bitternose, Paul Crow-Buffalo, Albert Pinacie, and Sheryl Kayseas were in attendance for this meeting.

Director of Education / CEO, Kevin Garinger, Superintendent of Finance Services / CFO, Sarah Reding, Superintendent of Operational Services / COO, Justin Arendt, and Deputy Director, Randy MacLEAN joined the meeting to provide reports.

“Thank you to all Horizon staff, students, families, and communities for making the best of the situation — a situation we have no control over.

I salute you!”

*- Jim Hack,
Board Chair*



Discussion Items:

- COVID-19
- Operational Services Update
- 2020-21 Budget Review
- Special Meetings
- And more...

COVID-19 and Supplemental Learning

During the regular meeting of April 22, Director of Education Kevin Garinger shared updates and information regarding the division's COVID-19 response, Horizon's Supplemental Learning Plan, technology support for students, and staff support and considerations. Staff, families, and community members are encouraged to continue to visit horizonsd.ca for regular updates, or call **1-306-682-2558** for Horizon's Communication Centre Hotline with any questions or concerns.

Public Section Update

During the March 31, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board, the following motion was carried: "That we support the continuation of the Public Section litigation to be presented to the Supreme Court of Canada". This refers to the recent decision of Saskatchewan's Court of Appeal — which overturned a ruling that said the province could no longer fund non-Catholic students attending Catholic schools. Further discussion on this matter took place during the Board's regular monthly meeting on April 22.

Human Resource Services Update

Deputy Director of Education, Randy MacLEAN, shared plans for staffing in the 2020-21 school year, and shared updates on *collective bargaining for the Saskatchewan Teachers' Association (STF).

*** As of April 22, a tentative agreement has been reached between the Government Trustee Bargaining Committee and the Teachers' Bargaining Committee. A ratification vote for STF members will be held on May 19, 20, 21.**

2020-21 Budget Planning Review

Superintendent of Finance Services / CFO, Sarah Reding, shared preliminary information regarding Horizon's 2020-21 budget. A preliminary budget package will be shared with the Board during a Special Budget Meeting proposed for a later date.

Operational Services Update

Superintendent of Operational Services / COO, Justin Arendt, shared an update regarding Transportation Services, Facility Services, and Information Services. Highlights include new disinfecting, cleaning, and maintenance practices for school buses and facilities. Information Services has been busy supporting staff working from home and students and families engaging in Supplemental Learning. Over 900 Chromebooks/laptops have been distributed to students to help them engage with this learning, and approximately 100 cellphones are being distributed — through a partnership with SaskTel, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, and Saskatoon Public Schools — to work as wifi hotspots for families without internet access.

Special Meetings - April, 2020

Horizon's Board held Special Meetings on April 7 and April 29. During these meetings, Trustees discussed items such as the Education Sector Response Planning Team, COVID-19 response updates, communication with staff and families, and the potential processes for this year's annual Board and Director appraisal process. These conversations will continue going forward. At this time, the Board plans to hold regular check-in Special Meetings on a regular basis.

Saskatchewan school divisions encourage students to #TakeBackYourYear

Horizon School Division, and school divisions across the province, are launching a campaign this week to keep students engaged with learning while physical classrooms remain closed. The campaign will promote graphics, information, and encouragement for students and families to continue with their learning through school division supplemental learning plans.

#TakeBackYourYear invites teachers, staff, students, families, and community members to share the hashtag on social media along with their own stories of success and encouragement for one another through this challenging situation.

"I am inspired every day by Horizon's staff, and how they have gone above and beyond to support our students' learning in this difficult situation," says Kevin C. Garinger, Director of Education for Horizon School Division. "We will continue to provide opportunities and support for education in the midst of the challenges we face, and we strongly encourage students and families to continue taking advantage of these opportunities for learning in the days and weeks to come."

Horizon School Division has been offering teacher-directed supplemental learning for students since April 20, 2020. Staff have been connecting with families and students to determine each individual's learning needs, and developing course work to support them.

Supplemental learning offers students a chance to improve their mark, but there is no risk of their mark going down. The learning schedule, lessons, and course work are flexible to accommodate the needs of each family and student. Teachers are ready and able to provide support. School divisions believe that staying engaged with teacher-directed learning right now will help with a smooth transition to a student's future – whether that's a return to the classroom, post-secondary learning, or the workforce after high school. Supplemental learning is also a positive way for students to stay in contact with classmates and friends.

Students and families who originally opted out of supplemental learning are encouraged to reach out to their teacher or school if they have further questions and/or choose to participate.

"We cannot thank our students and families enough for their truly incredible efforts to stay connected to learning so far," Mr. Garinger says. "Remote learning can be a challenge for us all, but I take comfort in knowing we are in this together with our incredible families, communities and partners. Horizon School Division is here for you."

For more on the **#TakeBackYourYear** campaign, visit Horizon School Division's website, Facebook, and Twitter page.

Submissions & Feedback

To submit photos or stories regarding the Board of Education or an individual Trustee in your school community, please contact the Horizon School Division Communication Services Officer at lance.hiltz@horizonsd.ca.

We want this newsletter to be as informative and beneficial as possible, so feedback on how we can improve is always welcome.

Thanks for reading!

Next Regular Board Meeting Scheduled for May 20, 2020

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